

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated 18 October 2004, the Examiner reported the Examination of the 20 pending original claims, and noted that the Applicant had withdrawn pending Claims 9 through 20 in response to an Oral Restriction requirement placed on the application. The Examiner rejected Claims 1 through 4, 6, and 7 based upon prior art. The Examiner objected to Claims 5 and 8 but allowed that they contained allowable subject matter if recast as independent claims.

The Applicant has recast the first independent claim, Claim 1, to include the limitations of Claim 8 thus to make Claim 8 allowable according to the Examiner's guidance. Claims 2 through 6 remain in their original form but depend from Claim 1 including the limitation from Claim 8, thereby placed in an allowable form.

Similarly, the Applicant has added new Claims 21 through 27 repeating the original Claims 1 through 4 and 6, 7, and 8, thereby preserving the allowable matter expressed in Claim 5. Because of the inclusion of the allowable limitation in the independent claim, Claim 21, Claims 21 through 27 should likewise be allowable.

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CONCLUSION

Having recast the Claims containing allowable subject matter into suitable independent claims, the Applicant submits that the claims are now in a state suitable for allowance. If the amendments set forth herein evoke and questions or concerns, the Applicant request that the Examiner direct such questions or concerns to Applicant's attorney, the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.08 on the date indicated below addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

4/11/00

Date of Deposit


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